

I am writing to bring to light a situation at my apartment complex, Pinnacle Ridge apartments here in Asheville, NC. The apartment owners, Colonial Village have signed a deal with Charter communications to provide cable television connections to all apartments in the complex. I had apparently agreed that they might do this in my lease, signed last July. The apartment complex will now provide cable television service, and the charge will be added to my monthly rent in the amount of \$53 per month. My problem with this is that I do not have, nor do I want to have, cable television service. The apartment company says that this is an "amenity" for which I must pay. Other tenants who do not have cable television are being forced to do the same.

I feel that there is something very wrong with forcing anyone to buy a product which they do not want. This is not auto insurance. There is also no choice of service involved, I must buy Charter television service. At a time of great economic hardship for so many people I find it unconscionable that Colonial Villages and Charter are forcing people to buy this product. Despite what is written in the lease about adding amenities I feel this cannot be a legal action. I already live here and have no choice – if I do not pay for cable television it will be considered underpayment of rent and I will be evicted.

I have researched this issue and see that the FCC has been trying to address it, as yet without success. Are there no protections for consumers in North Carolina or in the U.S.?

I hope you can help with this issue or direct me to where I might take this issue. As it stands I will be paying more than \$600 to Charter next year even though I don't want to!

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